



In 1847 the citizens of Cross Plains. In honor of founder Edward Dalton White the city changes the name to Dalton. That same year the Western and Atlantic Railroad is completed to the small town. Its location near the railroad would greatly affect the destiny of this north Georgia town.

The name Dalton comes from, Edward White's Grandfather Tristram Dalton.

Tristram Dalton (1732-1817) was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts; graduate of Harvard 1755; admitted to bar but followed mercantile pursuits.

Delegate to Convention of Committees of new england Provinces, Providence, Rhode Island 1776; member Massachusetts House of Representatives, 1782-1788; Speaker, 1784-1785; United States Senator 1789-1791; Surveyor Port of Boston, 1814-1817.

His grandson, Edward White, laid out the City of Dalton, Georgia, donating land for a city park

and church sites. The city was named in honor of Senator Dalton and his daughter Mary, mother of Capitan White.

The growth of Dalton is astonishing. Completion of the Western and Atlantic Railroad to Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1850 creates the first rail system to the area west of the Appalachians. In 1851 Dalton is named the seat of government for newly created Whitfield County and a railroad depot is completed the following year.

Built in the center of town the depot still stands, one of the few antebellum structures in Northwest Georgia.

The Carpet Capital

Shortly after the start of the 20th century a cottage industry starts in Dalton. Catherine Evans Whitener, using an American tufting technique known as "candlewick embroidery" begins making bedspreads. The number of bedspreads ordered quickly surpasses the quantity she can make and she teaches others the skill of hand-tufting.

In 1917 she, along with other family members, form the Evans Manufacturing Company. From the Tennessee state line to Adairsville the homes along U.S Highway 41 were decorated with the creations of her company. The road become known as "Chenille" or "Bedspread" Alley. Some people even call it Peacock Alley for the most popular bedspread design. Once again the railroad lines would play a key role, allowing the industry to develop because of available transportation.

The technology used by the company is transferred to the manufacture of carpet. Introduction of wall-to-wall carpet fuels additional expansion. Today Dalton is unrivaled in its production of carpet. Almost 90% of the functional carpet produced world-wide is made within a 25-mile radius of this north Georgia city.